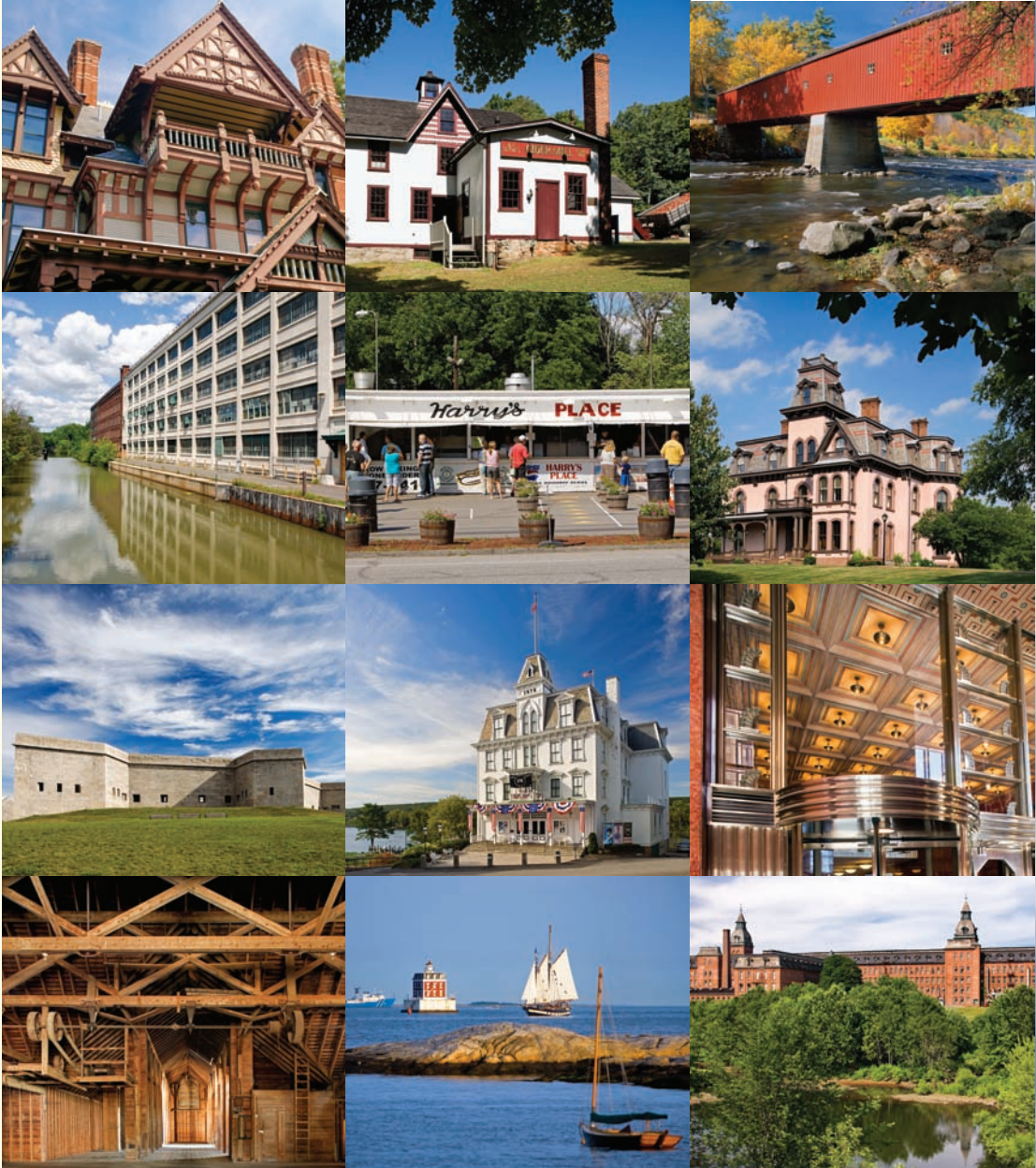


A Message from Karen Senich, Acting Executive Director & State Historic Preservation Officer

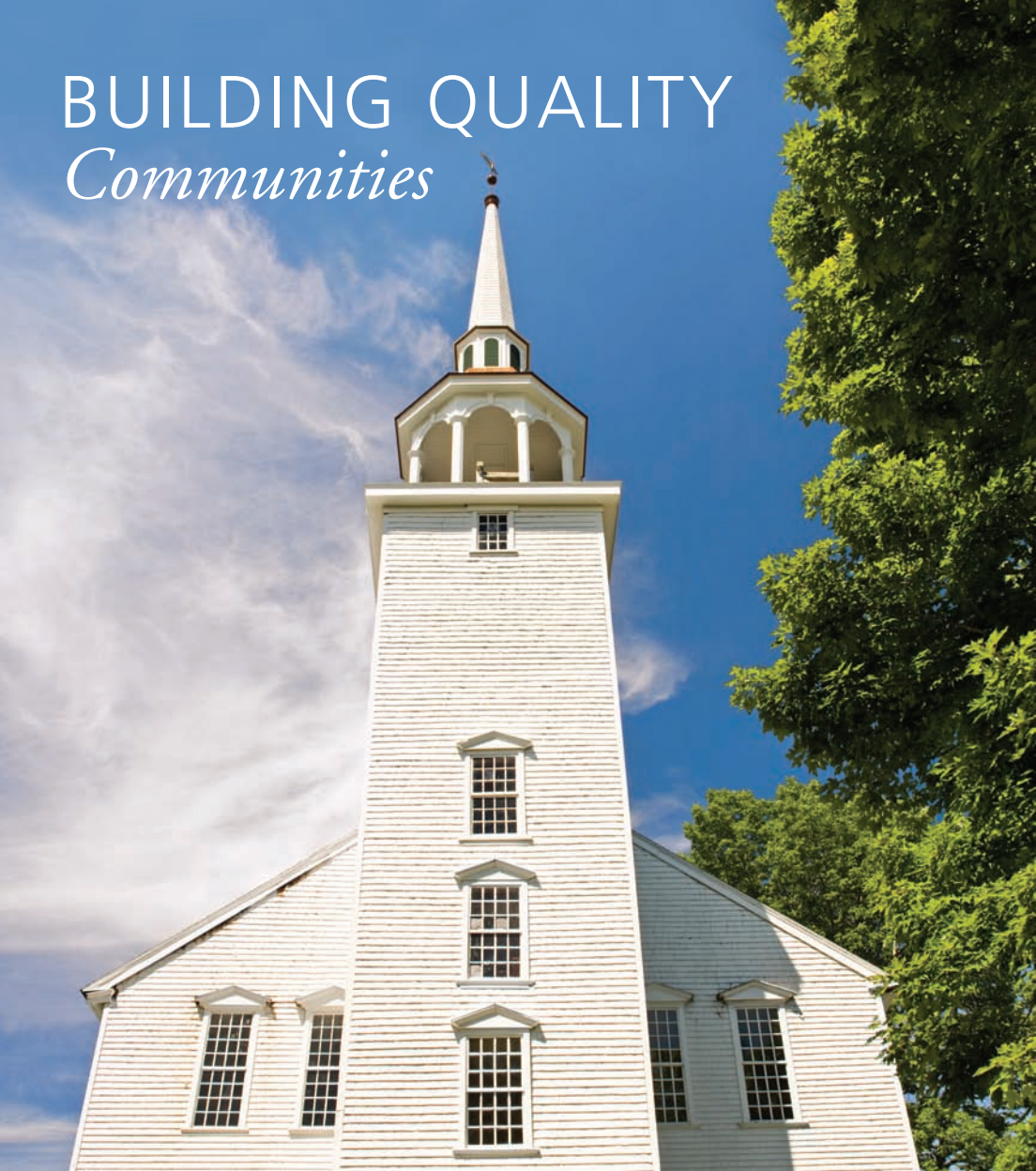
Talk about responsible growth is all around us. Recent state legislation looks to guide Connecticut’s future development. Did you know that historic preservation is ahead of its time? It has led the way in restoring and revitalizing downtowns and communities. Historic preservation is preservation of both historic and natural resources – not just saving a building here or there but saving and reusing neighborhoods already serviced by existing municipal infrastructure. Each existing building contains “embodied energy” – the energy it took to manufacture the building materials, transport them to a construction site and assemble them into a building. Demolition wastes energy and chokes our landfills. The Commission on Culture & Tourism is proud to be a part of a state and national movement to understand how historic preservation works towards economic, environmental and social sustainability.

The funding provided by the Community Investment Act is essential to our efforts. Our new initiatives in 2008 include surveying historic industrial buildings statewide – essential for identifying adaptive reuse opportunities; launching a new tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic buildings; tracking the economic impact of the four rehabilitation tax credits programs; continuing to work with our partners, the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and the Connecticut Main Street Center, to fund granting programs that leverage private reinvestment; and restoring CCT’s four state museums.

Visit us in our new offices at Hartford’s Constitution Plaza – with CCT’s Arts, Historic Preservation and Museums Film, and Tourism Divisions under one roof.



Photos courtesy of Robert Benson, with additional photography by Kindra Clineff, Jack McConnell and Wayne Gannaway



Historic Preservation

- Is environmentally sound, allowing for the reuse of older buildings instead of abandoning or demolishing them;
- Supports environmental sustainability by revitalizing existing neighborhoods;
- Generates jobs, affordable housing, private investment and tax revenue.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT
ANNUAL REPORT 2008

In July 2005, Public Act 228, An Act Concerning Farm Land Preservation, Land Protection, Affordable Housing and Historic Preservation, was signed into law by Governor M. Jodi Rell. Using money generated by a portion of the real property conveyance recording fee, the law dedicates approximately \$3 to \$5 million dollars a year each to historic and open space preservation, retention of farmland and affordable housing. These four areas contribute immeasurably to Connecticut’s quality of life. The Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism administers these historic preservation funds.



A portion of the CIA funding is used for the restoration of the four museums administered by the Commission: the Henry Whitfield House, Guilford; the Prudence Crandall House, Canterbury; Old Newgate Prison, East Granby; and the Sloane-Stanley Museum, Kent.

COVER: **Preserving our Small Town Centers**
The Old Brooklyn Meeting House in Brooklyn has been the setting of much local history and is an anchor for the town center. An HRF grant helped the Unitarian Universalist Society restore the six-story bell tower of this eye-catching 1771 landmark.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT

FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND MUNICIPALITIES

State Fiscal Year 2008

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historic Restoration Fund Matching Grants Funds applications from municipalities or non-profit organizations for the stabilization and restoration of properties listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.	\$1,300,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historic Preservation Fellowship Provides internships in the field of historic preservation, including archaeology, architectural history and planning for graduate students.	\$75,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historic Preservation Activities Funds a wide range of historic preservation planning studies, including historic resource surveys of architectural and archaeological resources.	\$300,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Endangered Building Fund Grants Funds pre-development studies or restoration of severely threatened properties for new uses.	\$250,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic Operating Support for Historic Preservation Non-Profit Organizations Funds grants to enhance and strengthen local historic preservation leadership.	\$300,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supplemental Certified Local Government Grants Funds a wide variety of preservation projects by 36 federally-designated municipalities. Municipalities may apply for up to \$30,000.	\$250,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture and Tourism Partnership Grants Funds grants that encourage partnerships among arts, film, history and tourism organizations and attractions.	\$50,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation	\$200,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CTHP Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grants Funds a partnership with CTHP to provide grants to municipalities and non-profit organizations for architectural plans necessary for restoration or rehabilitation.	\$200,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connecticut Main Street Center Preservation of Place Grants Funds a partnership with CMSC to provide grants to designated Main Street communities for producing planning studies to strengthen the economic vitality of traditional Main Streets.	\$75,000

Success Stories



Heritage Tourism, Served Up Fresh at Skee's Diner
Skee’s Diner (1920) served customers in Old Saybrook before being relocated in 1944 to its current site at the junction of Elm and Main streets in Torrington. With a \$100,000 matching grant award from the CCT’s Endangered Building Fund, the Northwest Connecticut’s Chamber, in collaboration with the Northwest Connecticut Economic Development Corporation, the City of Torrington, Torrington Historical Society, the Litchfield Hills Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council, purchased the diner and plans to move it to the commuter parking lot off of Route 8 at exit 44. Once vacant and threatened by development pressures, the diner will now serve as a welcome center and gateway to Northwest Connecticut.

Designed to be mobile and able to fit on small lots, Skee’s Diner is representative of the barrel-roof diner common in early 20th-century New England. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. Skee’s Diner accommodated 17 customers on round swivel stools at the tan-colored marble counter. In addition to grilled and fried food, diners also enjoyed the atmosphere provided by wood cabinetry with brass fittings, green and yellow one-inch ceramic floor tile, an enameled metal ceiling and frosted windows.

Partnering with Local Governments to Preserve Character
Supplemental Certified Local Government grants have been used to prepare pre-development studies for under-used historic buildings such as the Hamden Town Hall; study universal accessibility for town buildings such as the Canton Town Hall; improve the municipality’s preservation planning capacity by surveying and documenting historic resources; and educating the public about important local buildings such as barns. SCLG grants help build strong partnerships between the municipalities, CCT and our federal partner, the National Park Service.

Serving our Communities
Located in the 1874 Gothic Revival-style United Methodist Church in Hartford, the South Park Inn provides housing and services to homeless adults. The CCT Historic Restoration Fund helped to restore the slate roof of the steeple, which enhances the neighborhood greatly.